

Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

August 2014

Mars Science News

Observers Meeting for Comet 2013 AI (Siding Spring)

August 11, 2014

Comet Siding Spring will fly within 132,000 km of Mars on 19 October 2014. Both Earth-based and Mars-based assets are planning observations that will increase understanding of its orbit, nucleus size, density, strength, rotation rate, composition, coma and tail morphology, and evolution over time. Observers will also search for possible effects of cometary dust and gas on the Mars atmosphere, relevant to understanding the delivery of cometary water and organics to inner planets. In order to facilitate the maximal observing of Siding Spring, a 1-day observers' discussion will be held on 11 August 2014. There are a limited number of Web-Ex connections still available. Interested parties should email meeting organizer Carey Lisse at Carey.Lisse@jhuapl.edu.

For more information about observing opportunities for Comet Siding Spring, please visit the CIOC Campaign webpage at: <http://cometcampaign.org>

and the Mars Program Siding Spring webpage at: <http://mars.nasa.gov/comets/sidingspring>

New LPI topical websites: Early Mars and (upcoming) Mars Polar Science

In response to the growing interest in the conditions that prevailed on Mars during its first billion years of geologic history and their implications for the development of life, LPI has created the Early Mars topical website:

http://www.lpi.usra.edu/early_mars/

whose purpose is to provide one-stop access to news and information about the latest in Early Mars research, past and future meetings, special issues, educational resources and student research opportunities, a searchable database of Early Mars peer-reviewed publications, and a variety of other web-based resources.

A similar site dedicated to Mars Polar Science and Exploration is forthcoming, which will provide access to all five MPSE Conferences and Icarus special issues, as well as to related meetings, news and research.

These websites are intended as an evolving and regularly updated community resource. Contributions of research news, citations of peer-reviewed publications for inclusion in the Early Mars or Mars Polar Science Reference Libraries, photos from past meetings and field trips, and other relevant content are most welcome. If you have any material you wish to contribute, or any feedback regarding potential changes or additions to these websites, please send it to clifford@lpi.usra.edu, with 'Early Mars' or 'Mars Polar Science' in the subject line.

Near-term Due Dates (next three months)

Due	Project
August 1, 2014	45th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, Planetary Geomorphology Abstract deadline
August 6, 2014	AGU Fall Meeting Abstract deadline
August 15, 2014	EANA 2014 - The 14th European Astrobiology Conference Abstract and Early Registration deadline
August 21, 2014	46th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS 2014) Abstract deadline
August 26, 2014	46th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS 2014) Early registration deadline
August 31, 2014	45th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, Planetary Geomorphology Registration deadline (on-site available)
September 15, 2014	International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014) Registration deadline Geological Society of America Annual Meeting Registration deadline

Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Third Quarter, 2014		
	August 2-10, 2014 Moscow, RUSSIA	40th COSPAR 2014 and Associated Events http://www.cospar-assembly.org/
	August 6-8, 2014 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	5th Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/PCCMeeting.htm
	August 11-15, 2014 Pasadena, CA, USA	Annual Planetary Science Summer School, Session III http://pscischool.jpl.nasa.gov
	August 18-22, 2014 Geneva, SWITZERLAND	ISC 2014 Sedimentology at the Crossroads of New Frontiers http://www.sedimentologists.org/meetings/isc Session 038 - Extraterrestrial Sedimentology
	September 7-12, 2014 Centro de Congressos do Estoril, Cascais, PORTUGAL	European Planetary Science Congress http://www.epsc2014.eu/
	September 8-12, 2014 Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL	First Astrobiology School at the Observatorio Nacional http://www.on.br/coaa/astrobion2014/indexeng.html
	September 12-14, 2014 Knoxville, TN, USA	45th Annual Binghamton Geomorphology Symposium, Planetary Geomorphology http://web.eps.utk.edu/symposium/index.php
	September 21, 2014	MAVEN Mars Orbit Insertion (MOI)
	September 24, 2014	The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) Mars Orbit Insertion

Fourth Quarter, 2014

	October 13-16, 2014 Edinburgh, SCOTLAND	EANA 2014 - The 14th European Astrobiology Conference http://www.astrobiology.ac.uk/eana2014/
	October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2014/ Special Session - MicroMars to MegaMars: Integration of Surface and Orbital Investigations
	October 19, 2014	Comet Siding Spring closest approach to Mars
	October 27-29, 2014 St. Louis, MS, USA	ASCE Earth and Space 2014, Engineering for Extreme Environments http://earthspaceconf2014.mst.edu/
	November 3-5, 2014 Houston, TX, USA	Workshop on Volatiles in the Martian Interior http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/volatiles2014/
	November 4-7, 2014 Greenbelt, MD, USA	2nd International Workshop on Instrumentation for Planetary Missions (IPM-2014) http://ssed.gsfc.nasa.gov/IPM/
	November 9-14, 2014 Tucson, AZ, USA	46th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society Division of Planetary Sciences (DPS 2014) http://aas.org/meetings/dps46
	December 15-19, 2014 San Francisco, CA, USA	AGU Fall Meeting http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2014/

First Quarter, 2015

New!	January 27-28, 2015 Washington, DC area, USA	Venus Explorations Instruments and Laboratory Measurements Workshop http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/meetings/Tech-Workshop0115.pdf
	March 7-14, 2015 Big Sky, MT, USA	IEEE Aerospace Conference http://www.aeroconf.org/ Abstracts deadline has been extended (no specific deadline given, but no later than the paper submission deadline: October 24, 2014).
	March 16-20, 2015 The Woodlands, TX, USA	46th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2015/

Seond-Fourth Quarter, 2015

New!	April 28-29, 2015 Wachtberg, GERMANY	5th PCL Focus Days 2015 http://workshops.fhr.fraunhofer.de/pclfocusdays/
New!	May 19-22, 2015 Boise, ID, USA	4th International Planetary Dunes Workshop http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/dunes2015/
New!	May 26-27, 2015 London, UK	iCubeSat 2015: 4th Interplanetary CubeSat Workshop http://iCubeSat.org
	June 15-19, 2015 Chicago, IL, USA	Astrobiology Science Conference 2015 (Abscon) http://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/abscicon2015/
	November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

2016

	January 7, 2016	20-Day ExoMars Launch Period Opens
	March 8, 2016	20-Day Insight Launch Window Opens
	September 20, 2016	Insight Arrival at Mars
	October 16, 2016	ExoMars Arrival at Mars

Seasons on Mars

	MY32	MY33	MY34
Start of Northern Spring / L_s 0	7/31/2013	6/18/2015	5/05/2017
Start of Northern Summer / L_s 90	2/15/2014	1/03/2016	11/20/2017
Start of Northern Autumn / L_s 180	8/17/2014	7/04/2016	5/22/2018
Start of Northern Winter / L_s 270	1/11/2015	11/28/2016	10/16/2018

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings

Good Friday	4/18/2014	4/3/2015	4/6/2016	4/14/2017
Rosh Hashanah	9/25/2014	9/14/2015	9/16/2016	9/20/2017
Yom Kippur	10/4/2014	9/23/2015	9/25/2016	9/29/2017
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening)				
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/27/2014	11/26/2015	11/22/2016	11/23/2017
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/13/2014	10/12/2015	10/8/2016	10/9/2017
Christmas Day	12/25/2014	12/25/2015	12/25/2016	12/25/2017

Editors

Carla de la Paz	paz@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-3160
Serina Diniega	Serina.Diniega@jpl.nasa.gov	818-393-1487
Amy Hale	Amy.S.Hale@jpl.nasa.gov	818-393-1186
David Beaty	David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov	818-354-7968

Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to:

Carla de la Paz at paz@jpl.nasa.gov, 818-354-3160.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at:

<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>